### FOURTEENTH

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY,

WITH

A LIST OF ITS OFFICERS,

Constitution, By-Laws, &c.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER.

1841.

## TRACTS DISTRIBUTED.

#### ENGLISH.

#### GERMAN ..

#### FRENCH.

### ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

THE PHILADELPHIA TRACT SOCIETY held its Fourteenth Annual Meeting in the Fifth Presbyterian Church, (Rev. T. T. Waterman's,) on Tuesday evening, September 28th. The President being absent, the chair was occupied by the Rev. Anson Rood, one of the Vice Presidents.

The Rev. Mr. More introduced the exercises by prayer.—The following hymn was then sung:

O Lord our God, arise,
'The cause of truth maintain;
And wide o'er all the peopled world
Extend her blessed reign.

Thou Prince of Life, arise,
Nor let thy glory cease;
Far spread the conquests of thy grace,
And bless the earth with peace.

Thou, Holy Ghost, arise,
Expand thy quickening wing,
And o'er a dark and ruined world,
Let light and order spring.

All on the earth, arise,
To God the Saviour sing,
From shore to shore, from earth to heaven,
Let echoing anthems ring!

The Annual Report was read by the Rev. CHARLES BROWN, the

Corresponding Secretary.

The Rev. Dr. Tyng, of the Episcopal Church, moved the adoption of the report, and followed his resolution by a forcible and eloquent address, on the power and influence of the press. He alluded to the demoralizing effects of a large class of popular works, which, under the assumed name of literature, were corrupting the minds of thousands of the young. He insisted on the importance of a counteracting influence—an influence to be derived from the publication and distribution of works of a religious and sanctifying character.

At the conclusion of Dr. Tyng's remarks, his resolution was seconded by Joseph Montgomery, Esq., who expressed his cordial assent to what had just been said by the speaker. The question was then taken, and the report was adopted and ordered to be

printed.

The congregation joined in the following hymn:

Arise, in all thy glory, Lord, Let power attend thy gracious word; Unveil the beauties of thy face, And show the riches of thy grace.

Diffuse thy light and truth abroad, And be thou known th' almighty God; Make bare thine arm, thy power display, While truth and grace thy sceptre sway.

O may the triumphs of thy grace, Abound, while righteousness and peace, In mild and lovely forms display The glories of the latter day.

After the hymn, the Rev. C. C. Vanarsdale, of the Dutch Reformed Church, addressed the meeting in a very feeling manner, on the importance of home and national piety. He remarked, "I would not dare to say we do too much for the heathen, for we do not half enough, but we certainly do too little for home. The eyes of the world are upon us. By promoting piety in our own community, we do much to promote it elsewhere—and throughout the earth." He considered Tract distribution well calculated to augment the amount of our national piety. He called the attention of the audience to that part of the report which stated, that during the past year, one hundred and fifteen souls had been hopefully converted by means of Tract operations in this city, and asked whether further encouragement was necessary.

The Rev. T. T. Waterman, pastor of the church, next arose and expressed his warmest attachment to the Tract cause. He held in his hand a Tract which had been published by the enemies of true religion. He remarked that we should be more actively engaged in doing good, inasmuch as the enemies of righteousness were incessantly engaged in doing evil. He deeply regretted that so little had been done to aid the funds of the Society. When he considered the wise adaptation of Tract distribution to the spiritual wants of multitudes in this city, he was pained to hear that two of the Tract missionaries had to be discharged, during the past year, for want of funds to sustain them. He hoped more would be done to aid the Society for the future.

After singing the following doxology-

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

The Society proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

## Officers of the Philadelphia Tract Society.

## J. MARSHALL PAUL, M. D., President.

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Cedar J. S. Cummings, Eleventh near Vine street. do.

Pine do. J. Marshall Paul, 335 Spruce street. Locust do. Martin Thayer, 23 Girard street.

South Winthrop Sargent, cor. of Chestnut and Schuyl. 4th. do. Dock John M. Harper, corner of Fifth and Commerce sts. do.

Walnut do. H. Humphrey, 188 Pine street.

Chestnut do. James Dunlap. 55 North Second street. Middle do. John Harned, Market below Twelfth.

A. Flint, 20 Sansom street. High do.

North do. O. Spencer, Schuylkill Sixth near Filbert street.

S. Mulberry Wm. Harned, 471 Market street. do. U. Delaware do. Jacob Sellers, 38 Market street.

L. Delaware Joseph H. Schreiner, 141 Buttonwood street. do.

N. Mulberry, Spring Garden, A. G. Roland, Wallace below 13th street. Fair Mount, and Francisville,

ship. District A, Wm. Ashman and W. M'Farland, 3d st., bel. Green. I. Ashmeadand B. Stewart, Wood bel. 7th, and Wil-В, low and York Road.

and Tow, C, James Russell, 263 Coates street. 66

A. Z. Bardin, Vine, above Fifth street. Joseph Aitken, Front above Otter street. 66 D, ٤. Ε, 66

F, Clement A. Wilson, 154 North Eight street. East Kensington, Rev. J. G. Maxwell, Beach street, near the market.

West Kensington, Rev. W. E. Cornwell, 17 Edward street.

Rev. N. S. Harris, Queen, above Fifth street. Doct. W. C. Chambers, 119 South Fifth street. Rev. George Higgins, 137 Catharine street.

Rev. P. Coombe, Moyamensing Road, below Carpenter street.
H. H. Shillingsford, Third street below Market. East Moyamensing, G. W. Lott, 136 South Ninth street. West Moyamensing, J. M. Lybrand, 125 New street.

Third Ward Moyamensing, Rev. Thos. H. Quinan, 357 South street.

Hamiltonville, West Philadelphia, &c. { Rev. John M'Knight, Hamiltonville,

Missionaries.

Rev. W. E. Cornwell,

A. G. Roland.

## REPORT.

THE season having arrived, in which it is usual for the Philadelphia Tract Society to review its past labors, the Board of Managers do hereby respectfully present their Fourteenth Annual Report.

While other departments of Christian enterprise are moving onward towards the full accomplishment of the Redeemer's will, we also are permitted to bear an humble part, in the advancement of the glorious event.

Deeply impressed with the feeling, that the cause we advocate is the cause of God, we have cheerfully persevered in the labors assigned us, believing those labors would not be in vain in the Lord. And although our best efforts have not been without their imperfections, both in their nature and results, still, there is great reason to encourage the hope, that notwithstanding our weakness and unworthiness, God has sanctioned our labors, and rendered them useful to many souls.

A single glance at the extracts, made from the monthly reports of our missionaries and superintendents, and found in the body of this report, will show how signally the divine blessing has followed the faithful efforts of Tract Visiters.

In this place we cannot forbear a passing remark on the adaptation of tract distribution to the wants of many thousands in our city.

It is often said, there are large numbers of persons in the midst of us, who seldom visit the house of God. And although the sanctuary is open Sabbath after Sabbath, and free to all who wish to attend, still, these multitudes press their way down to death, An important inquiry arises here, namely, how shall these thousands be made acquainted with the gospel?—The answer is, it must be taken to them. This is done, to a very great extent, by tract visitation. Hundreds of families, who from their poverty and obscurity would otherwise be overlooked, are sought out by the distributer, who not only furnishes them with the "word of life" in their own houses, but also induces them, in many instances, to become regular attendants at the house of God.

Among the many duties of a tract visiter are the following—to persuade persons to attend church—to gather children into Sabbath schools—to supply destitute families with the Holy Scriptures, &c. &c. Who can calculate the amount of good that may be accomplished, when more than six hundred visiters engage faithfully in such duties?

Nor must it be forgotten, that while the *spiritual* wants of all classes are thus attended to, the visiters make it an important part of their duty also to relieve the *temporal* wants of the poor and afflicted. Hundreds of the suffering poor can bear testimony to the sympathy and assistance which they have received from those who visit them month after month with religious tracts.

We would also record our humble gratitude to God for the Christian spirit that has pervaded all our meetings, and business transactions during the past year. Composed as we are from six different denominations, it is a source of much pleasure that we are enabled year after year, with so much harmony, to press on in this work of the Lord.

### OUR FIELD OF LABOR.

It comprises all that was described in our last report, with the addition of West Philadelphia, Mantua, and Maylandsville. The whole field, therefore, embraces now—the City Proper, Southwark, Moyamensing, Passyunk, Northern Liberties, Kensington, Spring Garden, Fair Mount, Francisville, Hamiltonville, West Philadelphia, Mantua and Maylandsville—containing in all about 39,000 families.

We have now but two Missionaries in the field; whose labors are directed especially to West Kensington, North Mulberry Ward, Spring Garden, Fair Mount and Francisville.—Southwark, Northern Liberties and Penn Township, formerly missionary ground, have been divided into nine wards or districts, and placed under the care of Superintendents, according to the plan adopted in the city proper. This change took place in April last, when the Board reluctantly discharged two of the Missionaries for want of funds to sustain them.

There are thirty-two Superintendents, who have the supervision of as many wards or districts. None of these wards are included in the field occupied by the missionaries—the attention therefore bestowed upon them, is the gratuitous labor of a number of gentlemen. The whole number of visiters, male and female, is about 650.

#### NUMBER OF TRACTS CIRCULATED.

During the past year there have been circulated in the City, Liberties, &c. &c. about 447,500 tracts—amounting to 1,795,200 pages, and in the following proportions:

Pages of English tracts, 1,728,000
" " German, " 55,200
" " French, " 12,000

In addition to these, there have been furnished, To the Rev. Thos. G. Allen, City Missionary, 26,868 pages.

Distributed among the shipping and boatmen, 33,600 "

In criminal and humane institutions, . . . 62,950 "

For gratuitous distribution in various places, 37,700 "Sold at the Depository to societies and indi-

viduals, including bound volumes, 3,812,940

Making the whole amount of issues by the

Society during the year, 5,769,258 pages.

### MEETINGS.

The number of prayer meetings sustained by the missionaries during the year amount to 1142; or by each as follows:

By the Missionary of West Kensington, 260
"Missionary of Spring Garden, Fair Mt., &c. &c. 520
Ending Missionary of N. Liberties and Penn Township, 182
in April. Missionary of Southwark and Passyunk, 180

The Tract Visiters' Monthly Prayer Meetings have been, in most instances, well attended. They are held, simultaneously, in seven different parts of the city and suburbs.

A meeting for Tract Superintendents has been established during the year. It convenes quarterly at our Depository—that is, on the third Tuesday evening in May, August, November, and February. The object of this meeting is to promote the interests of tract distribution, by a free interchange of views among the superintendents. Such topics are discussed as are calculated to instruct and encourage those who are laboring in the tract cause.

The following table will give some idea of the good accomplished by tract operations in this city during the past year. It is not pretended, however, that the table contains a *full* account of the amount of good effected—for owing to the neglect of many of the visiters in giving in regular reports, it is impossible that the fruits of our efforts, to their full extent, should be ascertained.

Number of persons persuaded to attend church, 121
Number of children engaged for Sabbath Schools, 401
Number of families supplied with the Bible, 584
Number of persons induced to sign the temp. pledge, 278
Number of hopeful conversions, 115

During the year, the missionaries established several Sabbath Schools, and Juvenile Temperance Societies, which are now in successful operation. One of these temperance societies embraces more than 400 youth. It was organized on the 14th of May last, with 110 members.

We now present a number of extracts from the reports of missionaries and superintendents. These facts are calculated to encourage the friends of tract efforts, and also to cheer the hearts of all who love the prosperity of Zion.

## (From the Missionary of West Kensington.)

He says, "We have been holding meetings every evening during the month. In these meetings the visiters are much engaged. Some of them have visited every family in their tract districts since the meetings commenced, with the view of persuading persons to attend. A good work seems to be going on. A number give evidence of a gracious change. Twelve or fourteen are still anxious. Among the latter, is a woman who had often been requested to attend church, but always refused to go; and recently, when spoken to on the subject, cursed and swore bitterly—wishing herself in—. She at last was pravailed upon to go to the house of God, and is now inquiring the way of life.

I called to see a woman a short time since, who received me very cordially; and from the conversation I had with her, have reason to believe her a Christian. Two years ago I invited this same woman to our meetings, but she then peremptorily refused to go. She was prevailed upon, however, to send her children to Sabbath school, and this finally led her to attend the means of grace herself. Observing that she attended our meetings very regularly, I called again to see her, and found to my satisfaction, a decided change for good had taken place.

Sometime since I mentioned the case of a man who was once a very active church member, but had been excommunicated twelve years ago for intemperance. So far did this individual wander, that he neglected the sanctuary altogether, and imbibed infidel sentiments. The first time I visited him he was very abusive, and disposed to dispute every thing I said. But a change has taken place. He is now as gentle as a lamb. A few days ago, when I was about leaving him, he very feelingly alluded to his treatment towards me when I first visited him, and hoped I would forgive him. Although his Christian friends around him can see decided evidence that he has become a new creature in Christ Jesus, still he is fearful of himself, and says, 'I was once deceived, and I am fearful I may be again.'

In my last report I stated we had been making special efforts in

a series of meetings, and that a large number of persons were awakened, and some converted. We have endeavored to follow up these things. There are ten who give evidence of a work of grace in their hearts. I cannot tell the particular portions of truth that have been blest to these individuals, but I know that in almost every case, it has been by the special efforts of tract visiters.

A young man lately offered himself to become a tract visiter. The history of his change is as follows:—he had been a very wicked youth. About a year ago he was engaged attending to the bar in a tavern. A visiter, going through the district as usual, came to the tavern with a tract. This young man being the only person present, received the tract and read it. It soon produced a powerful impression on his mind. Soon after he was taken sick—when he was visited by another distributer, who prayed for him. He continued in great distress of mind for several weeks, but finally found peace through faith in Christ. He continues to enjoy the comforts of religion, and wishes to be useful to the souls of others.

A visiter reports the case of a grocer in her district, who had been in the habit of selling on the Sabbath. He has now abandoned the practice. And when urged by his customers to profane the day for their accommodation, he presents them with a tract on the Sabbath, saying 'read this, and you will not want to buy on the Lord's day.'

Six of those persons, of whom I wrote in my last report as entertaining hope in Christ, have this month publicly professed their faith in Him. Two others, not before reported, have also made a profession. One of these had been an object of special effort by several of the tract visiters for eighteen months.

This month we have followed to the silent tomb, two persons who were among the first fruits of our labors in this district. One of them was formerly a Roman Catholic, and was awakened in one of our meetings about three years ago. Since then she had truly adorned the doctrines of God our Saviour. She was sick for several months before she was called away. It was good to visit her in her afflictions. Had the managers and friends of the

Tract Society stood by her bedside, and have heard her in her dying hours express her gratitude to God for sending me to her house, and bless him for those little meetings where her soul first found the Saviour, and have heard her also invoke the blessing of God upon the Tract Society, they would have turned away, feeling they were fully repaid for all their labor.

Two persons, who have long been the objects of special efforts, have, within the last week, expressed a hope in Christ. One of them is a man of considerable wealth. He was induced to attend church by the visiter calling at his door and giving him a tract.

There is an interesting case of a young woman from the state of New Jersey. She was religiously educated. She came to this city about a year ago, and soon formed acquaintance with persons of most exceptionable habits. While pursuing her dangerous course, she became deeply impressed with her sinfulness in the sight of God. These convictions came upon her especially one night while in a ball-room—where she fainted, and had to be carried home. She was sick for several days after. She told her sorrows to those about her, but they only ridiculed her seri-Just at this point two female tract visiters became acquainted with her situation. To them she told her history and These beloved visiters, faithful to the soul of this young woman, induced her to go with them to the house of God. They also introduced her to the attention of the tract missionary, and in ten days from the time the visiters first met with her, she gave decided evidence of having become a child of God. She has since returned to her parents from whom she had strayed."

## (From the Missionary of N. Mulberry Ward, Spring Garden, Fair Mount and Francisville.)

He says, "I have met with an interesting man, the head of a small family. He has professedly been an *infidel*. Familiar with the works of Paine and Volney, he once thought their reasoning and objections unanswerable. I visited him, and he became an attendant at one of our meetings. God brought him to see his

sins, and to abandon his false conclusions. He is now indulging hope in the pardoning mercy of Christ.

The past month has been one of interest to us as tract visiters. We have been engaged in ascertaining the number of families destitute of the Holy Scriptures. From reports received, we find one hundred and twenty-nine families, in our districts, who are destitute. Some of them are persons not long married, and many are foreigners. Some few are Romanists, part of whom refuse the word of life, while the other part seem anxious to obtain a copy.

Last month I mentioned the case of a young man who was brought under the influence of truth through the efforts of a neighbor. His wife has also been led to look at the subject of religion. Both of them now have hope in Christ, and have united themselves to the church.

One of the visiters requested me to visit a sick young man in her district. I was made to rejoice in him as a miracle of grace. He gave me his history. Although born and bred in this city, until lately he had never been in the house of God. He commenced a course of sin by habitually breaking the Sabbath. He next began to attend the theatre, which was followed by a course of gambling. To meet the expenses of his sinful practices, he sacrificed his honesty by defrauding his employer—for which he was cast into prison. At that time he could neither read nor write. He was bitterly opposed to every thing like preaching. He was finally induced, however, to listen to the truth. A deep conviction of sin followed; and after weeks of much distress for his soul, he was permitted to indulge hope in Christ. He now gives decided evidence of piety. I have had many precious seasons in his company.

A visiter left the Scriptures with a man who afterwards told him that the question, 'have you a Bible?' made a deep impression on his mind. This man has become quite serious.

A visiter remarks, 'among those in my district who are in the habit of refusing tracts, is a man who calls himself an infidel. He lately went so far as to say tracts were polluting the city. He

has since become better disposed towards our good cause, and has consented to let me take his children to Sabbath school.

A woman in one of our districts, and who has resided in the city only three months, manifested great carelessness about religion, until she was led to read the New Year's tract, which brought her to feel her need of Christ. Her mind was much distressed for some days. She was finally led to place her hopes in Christ alone. Her greatest anxiety now is for the conversion of her impenitent husband.

The visiter of the same district states the following. Some months ago I entered a house where ardent spirits were sold. I conversed with the landlady, but could not convince her at that time she was doing wrong. When I called the next month, she said she thought much of what had passed in my last visit, and confessed she felt now she was doing wrong. On visiting her the following month, I found she had abandoned the sale of liquor, and had opened a trimming store. She then promised to attend church, kept her promise, and was soon brought to see something of the sinfulness of her heart. In great distress of mind she spent a day in prayer to God. Soon after which, and while alone calling on the name of the Most High, she was permitted to realize the preciousness of Christ.

Some months ago, the Rev. Mr. G——, while attending a protracted meeting among the Lutherans, distributed some of our tracts. One of them found its way into a family, the reading of which was the means of the conversion of the mother, and two of the daughters.

There is an interesting case of a young woman, who in her last hours selected certain tracts, to be given to her friends after her death. One of the selected tracts was put into the hands of a young lady, and was instrumental in her conversion to God. Another, which was on Romanism, was placed in the hands of Romanists. It proved a blessing to a man and his wife—both of whom indulge the hope that they have become true converts to Christ."

The missionary just quoted, in giving a summary of his labors

for the past year, says, several of those persons converted through his recent labors have become Sabbath school teachers, and tract visiters. He also observes, that fewer conversions have occurred in his district during this year than last—but that it must likewise be kept in mind, that owing to the present arrangement of the Board, he is enabled to give only a part of his time to the work. His salary was reduced to 200 dollars per annum in April last, when two other missionaries were discharged. As a matter of course, part of his time is now occupied in secular pursuits.

## (From the late Missionary of Northern Liberties and Penn Township.)

He remarks. "one of my visiters reports as follows—'five of my little flock have lately been removed by death. Two of them, no doubt, found death to be gain. One of these dated her first religious impressions to a conversation I had with her about a year ago. At that time I thought my remarks would have no effect; but in this I was mistaken, as it was afterwards confessed they had gone deep into the heart.

In the course of my visits this month, (Dec.) I met with several families destitute of the necessaries of life, and in a suffering condition. Some of them were Germans, and I needed an interpreter to come at a right understanding of their condition. I did the best I could towards rendering them comfortable, by obtaining for them, bread, fuel, &c. &c.

Some of our prayer meetings are very well attended. Among those who seem to derive much benefit from them, are two young ladies, whose minds are deeply exercised on the subject of religion. A great change seems to have been effected in the man also, alluded to in my last report, who has lately been reclaimed from habits of intemperance. He has resolved to live a different life, and to take a part in conducting our little prayer meetings, when called upon so to do.

At the request of one of my visiters, I went to see a sick man who had lived nearly forty years in rebellion against his Maker. I talked with him, and found he was not without feeling on religious

subjects. I read to him from the Bible, and the little tract. I also prayed for him. His heart appeared to melt, and tears came to his eyes. Said he, 'O sir, I have neglected this work too long! It is a wonder God did not put an end to me before this. Here I am, a poor, miserable being, unprepared to die!'

A visiter says, 'I found every family in my district anxious to receive the New Year's Tract. One poor woman said, tracts were a great comfort to her in her afflictions.'

I lately had an interesting conversation with a colored woman, whom I consider truly pious. She dates her first serious impressions from reading various tracts.

In my visits this month, (February,) my heart has been much affected in view of human sufferings. We have been enabled to relieve the wants of several families who were without the necessaries of life. In several instances we obtained help from different societies—and when unable to get aid from them, we obtained it from individuals.

In one of our prayer meetings there is a good degree of solemnity manifested. Sometimes the room is crowded. Two persons have lately professed to have found Christ.

By request I visited a woman, whom I found in great distress of mind, and had been so for several days. Her distress was so great she could neither eat nor sleep. I read to her several rich promises from the Holy Scriptures. After a few remarks, we united in prayer to God. My heart was deeply affected on hearing her sighs and cries for pardon. This woman is now rejoicing in hope of God's mercy.

Not long since I visited a family, the father of which had been a very wicked man—adding to his other sins that of intemperance. When under the influence of liquor, he treated his family in the most brutal manner. He was conversed with, and tracts were given him to read; but for a while nothing seemed to avail. He was regardless of character, and of every thing else. He was finally persuaded to attend church, when he was brought to see the exceeding sinfulness of his heart. He was led to confess his sins before God—to pray for forgiveness, and now gives evidence

The intoxicating bowl has been abandoned, and he, who before was indolent and cruel, has become industrious and kind-hearted. He is now an affectionate father and husband. Where the name of God was once blasphemed, and the wife and mother most wickedly treated—there the family altar has been erected. Morning and evening, the husband and wife, with their little children, unite their prayers and oblations around the mercy seat.

(From the (late) Missionary of Passyunk and part of Southwark.)

He says, "one of my visiters, while distributing the New Year's Tract, met with a woman who appeared very unhappy; and when asked the cause of her grief, said it was on account of the intemperate habits of her husband, who was once a professor of religion. While they were thus conversing, the husband entered the room. The visiter immediately addressed him in a faithful and affectionate manner, with regard to his besetting sin. The admonition was not without effect. Subsequently the visiter called at the house again, when the woman met him with the following expression: O sir, I am happy to tell you my husband has left off his drinking habits—has signed the temperance pledge—keeps it faithfully, and now goes with me to the house of God. Thank the Lord, we now live comfortably together.'

Within the last three months, I have several times visited a lady who gives good evidence of piety. The last time I saw her, I asked her what led to her conversion? She said her mind was seriously impressed at first in one of my prayer meetings. About the same time a tract visiter gave her the tract, 'Quench not the Spirit,' which convinced her of her errors, and led her to embrace the offers of mercy through Jesus Christ.

A visiter says, 'in my district the people are not only willing to receive tracts, but generally come to meet me before I can get to their houses, and with few exceptions, they expect to be spoken to on the subject of religion. One man told me I never could be rewarded for my kindness but in heaven. Houses formerly filled

with idlers on the Sabbath, are now closed for the inmates to attend church.

Within the year I have reported the hopeful conversion of four persons in one family, the father and mother, a son, and a daughter-in-law. I am now happy in being able to add another, a son, and husband to the last mentioned individual. For more than a year he was an object of our special solicitude. Two weeks since he joined himself to the people of God.

Our meetings in Passyunk increase in interest. A young woman, who lives in one of the houses in which our meetings are held, has lately given herself to the Saviour. Others are inquiring the way of life.

A young married woman, lately brought to a knowledge of the truth, attributes her conversion, under God, to the faithful labors of one of our tract visiters. The wife prevailed on the husband to accompany her to the house of God, where the truth was blessed to his salvation. They are now both members of the church.

Two young men who frequent our meetings, are now inquiring what they must do to be saved. One of these, until lately, could never be prevailed upon to attend religious meetings.

The sick woman mentioned in my last report, has since died; and has gone, as I believe, to join the general assembly of the church in heaven. For several weeks before her death, she was supplied with the necessaries of life almost entirely by a tract visiter—who also collected about fourteen dollars to defray the burial expenses, and to purchase clothing for the two orphan children.

The young man mentioned in my last report as having serious thoughts on the subject of religion, and who formerly could not be prevailed upon to attend any place of worship, now gives cheering evidence of being born of God.

A prayer meeting which I held a year ago in the house of an intemperate man, has been blessed to him and his family. He has abandoned the intoxicating bowl. His family, who once neglected

the house of God, are now found statedly within its walls. One of the children lately united with the church.

In Passyunk, I have commenced a Sabbath school, numbering 48 children and 6 teachers. Our meetings there continue to increase in interest. On Sabbath morning we have from 50 to 60 present; in the afternoon about 80, including children; in the evening about 100—nearly all of whom are adults, and more than half of them men."

The missionary from whose reports the above extracts have been taken, was one of those whose labors for the society ceased last spring. While in our employ he established meetings in Passyunk, which he attended every Sabbath, and at least once through the week. He also commenced a Sabbath school as above stated. His labors resulted in a determination on the part of his hearers to build a place for public worship. We are happy to state, the impetus thus given by the missionary continues to be felt by the people—the meetings are kept up with as much interest as ever, and arrangements have been entered into to build a church.

Reports have been received from the superintendents of Locust Ward; Cedar Ward; North Ward; 3d Ward, Southwark; 2d Ward, Moyamensing; 3d Ward, Moyamensing; District A, N. Liberties, and Hamiltonville.

The following facts are extracted from the reports just alluded to:

"Two cases of special interest have recently occurred in my district. The first was that of an elderly lady, who lived in very comfortable circumstances, but was entirely negligent of her eternal interests. The tract visiter, who was a young and pious female, supplied her with tracts, and for some time visited her several times, every month, to converse with her on the subject of religion. By grace, through these means, the old lady was finally brought to the cross of Christ. Shortly after this, she was summoned from the world, and died in the full triumph of faith.

The other case is that of a man who resides within our bounds. I was directed to his dwelling by a tract visiter. I found him in affliction. Although he had been religiously educated, he had

taken refuge in cheerless infidelity. I imparted to him such counsel as his situation required. He was brought to feel himself a sinner. I continued my visits until he found mercy at the feet of Christ. He has since joined the church, and gives good evidence of a thorough change of heart."

A visiter says, "I called on a family, the father of which not only refused to take the tract, but also spoke in the most disrespectful manner of professing Christians. His wife also came out and ordered me to leave the house. I finally succeeded however in leaving a tract with them. The next month, when near the same house, I was undetermined whether to go in, but the woman hearing my voice, came forward and invited me in. She expressed her satisfaction with the tracts, and hoped I would call again. Soon after this visit she placed all her children in the Sabbath school."

A superintendent says, "good has been done amongst us. Many children have been gathered into the Sabbath school—many persons have been induced to attend the house of God, who before desecrated the Sabbath. Several have been led to sign the temperance pledge. In one instance an individual, who had sold ardent spirits for fifteen years, was induced to give up his evil business. He had formerly been a church member, but for ten years had neglected to visit the sanctuary. He has been brought to see the evil of his ways. He and his family now regularly attend church, and his children are sent to Sabbath school. Application has been made on his part to be received among the people of God.

A visiter reports thus: "A German woman who is in the habit of receiving our tracts, after reading them herself, often sends them to her friends in Germany, and sometimes to her acquaintances in the country parts of Pennsylvania. Sometime since she sent one to an ungodly man in the southern part of this city. She knew the man only from reputation, having never seen him. Subsequently he made a visit to her husband on business. While in her presence he made some remarks which led her to believe a change in his character had taken place. In answer to some of her questions,

he said he had 'lately been brought to the light' by the tract she had sent him. He attributed his conversion, under God, to her instrumentality."

Two ladies, who associate in supplying one district, say, "In an obscure alley, which we had always supposed contained no dwellings, we found two sisters living together. One, eighty-four years old, who has entirely lost her sight—the other is but a few years younger, and an invalid. They seemed grateful and pleased with our visit."

Another visiter remarks, "my section contains 65 families, none of whom refused tracts during the past year. I gave a Bible to an English woman, who received it with joy. With tears in her eyes, she thanked me for the precious gift. Said she had resided in America ten years, and during all that time, no one had spoken to her on the subject of religion, until now. She has become an attendant at church, and her children have been gathered into the Sabbath school.

One of the reports mentions the case of a German Jew, who seems to be concerned about the true Messiah. A copy of the Scriptures was given him, which he gladly received. He says he thinks the Saviour of sinners has already come, and expresses a desire to be further informed on that subject.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

From the foregoing statements, it is evident that the blessing of the Lord has followed the efforts of the Society. So long as men are thus enlightened, sanctified, and saved by our labors, we may well encourage the hope that the favor of God will continue to attend us.

While we are thankful for the amount of interest already manifested on the part of the church, for the cause in which we are engaged, we at the same time can but regret that so few comparatively, out of so large a number of Christians as this city affords, seem to feel that degree of interest in our operations which, from their nature and effects, it would appear they deserve.

This apparent apathy cannot result from indifference to the

welfare of immortal souls—such a conclusion would be too illiberal for us to draw; we rather suppose it arises from a want of proper information, in regard to the amount of good accomplished by regular tract distribution. To remedy this, we affectionately request all our friends, who are now actively engaged with us, to use their influence by enlisting as many others as they possibly can in this good work. This may be done by personal appeals to the judgments and hearts of those who profess an interest in the Redeemer's kingdom.

Again. There are numbers of warm-hearted Christians around us, who notice our proceedings—admire our system for holy enterprise; and say it is one of the best calculated to do good, especially in large cities—and yet those very persons often contribute nothing, unless it be their prayers, towards aiding us in our labors. This may be because they have not been apprised of our pecuniary wants. To all such, we would respectfully say, there is great want of means to carry out our plans of usefulness, and to render our operations more efficient than they have been.

It will be seen by a statement made in the former part of this report, that in April last, we were obliged to discharge two of our missionaries, for want of funds to sustain them. It is a matter of much regret, that such a measure was necessary.

From experience we are prepared to say, that missionary labor in connection with tract distribution, is of much importance, if not essentially necessary, to render the system effectual in producing the greatest amount of good.

Those parts of the city and suburbs that have been occupied as missionary ground, afford the main encouragement we have for continuing our labors as a society. It is our desire, therefore, to increase the number of our missionaries. We now have but two—we should have at least six. Will the friends of Tract distribution come to our aid in this matter? Shall we have more missionary help for the future? If it is not practicable for us to sustain the men entirely, we ask for funds sufficient to give a partial support. Pious, intelligent laymen can be found, who will give from a third to a half of their time to the work, and be satisfied with

an annual compensation of from two to three hundred dollars each. If the Society, therefore, can raise 8 or 1200 dollars above its ordinary expenses, we may have six missionaries in the field.—What we shall be able to do in this particular, will depend entirely on the increased liberality of our friends.

#### FOREIGN FIELD.

This city is in the immediate sphere of our labors—the spiritual interests of the community in which we dwell, occupy the first place in the provisions of the Society. But at the same time, it is far from the spirit of our institution to confine our benevolence to this single spot. The claims of a world are upon us, in common with kindred associations. While we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we feel that consistency requires that we exert ourselves in diffusing throughout the whole earth, a knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At this very hour, access may be had to millions of heathen, by means of religious tracts.

There are more than fifty American presses already established in heathen lands, publishing the truths of our holy religion in no les than ninety-three different languages and dialects. Shall those rays of spiritual light, which now emanate from a sanctified press, continue to shine? Shall the waters of salvation, which now flow in a thousand streams among the dying heathen, continue to impart their life-giving power? Our response is, yes—provided Christians in our own favored country do all they easily can, towards sustaining gospel operations abroad.

As a society, we are deficient in this particular. We have contributed to the American Tract Society but a small sum, to what should have been given, to aid in the important work in other lands. We hope our friends will place our funds in such a condition, that for the future, our liberality towards the foreign field will abound.

In behalf of the Board.

CHARLES BROWN,

Corresponding Secretary.

Philadelphia, Sept. 28, 1841.

		\$236 73	To Balance due Treasurer,	
		\$6115 77		
		457 24	dental Expenses,	
Creasurer.	D. W. PRESCOTT, Treasurer.		" Freight, Printing and other Inci-	3.8
\$6115 77	E. E.	200 00	" Rent of the Depository,	66
236 73	"Balance due Treasury,	1926 59	Agents' salaries,	
2538 96	"Sales at the Depository, -		" Missionaries', Secretary's, and	
50 00	" Legacy from the late James Nassau,	580 23	" For Books and other Publications,	33
. 3215 76	". Collections and Subscriptions, "	\$2951 71	bound volumes,	
<b>\$74</b> 32	By Balance in the Treasury per last Report,		To cash paid American Tract Soc. for Tracts and	To
CR.	nt with D. W. Prescott, Treasurer.	ty, in accou	R. Philadelphia Tract Society, in account with	D <sub>R</sub> .

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

### RECEIVED

## From September 20th, 1840, to September 28th, 1841.

From members of the 1st Prochurch, (Rev. Mr. Barnes	esbyter '•)	ian	From the 1st Congregational (Rev. Mr. Todd's.)	chu	rch,
D. P. Alden	\$ 5	00	James Smith	\$10	00
Wm. Raiguel	**		D. W. Prescott		00
John Eckle	50	00	Thos. Elmes	20	
C. S. Wurts			A. Porter	10	
C. M'Intire			J. H. Brisco		00
Doct. J. M. Paul			Isaac S. Williams		00
Isaac Dunton			Charles Clarkson		00
John Lapsley			Edward S. Whelan		00
A. R. Perkins			E. Dunbarr	10	
James Bruen			A. Flint		00
G. W. Fobes			Religious Association		75
Wm. Wurts	25	00	Collection at Anniversary	100	
James Fassett	10	00	Cash		00
J. M. Atwood			R. W. Green	5	
C. Tingley			From the 10th Presbyterian ch	_	
T. Biddle			(Rev. Mr. Boardman's.)	,	
J. A. Brown			Doct. Shippen	20	00
Alex. Fullerton	25	00	Wm. Sargent		00
James Bayard			Joseph Patterson	50	
H. S. Williams			Judge Jones		00
David Lapsley	25	00	Mrs. Stille	1	00
Jacob Dunton			R. Patterson	5	00
Wm. M'Kee	10	00	Wm. E. Du Bois	10	00
J. B. Tingley			Mrs. R. Robinson	1	00
B. W. Richards	5	00	Samuel Asbury	10	00
Wm. Davidson	5		From the 6th Presb. chh., (Re	v.	
Thos. Fleming	25	00			
Ambrose White	10	00	Samuel Jones	10	00
Thos Roney			E. F. Backus	10	00
J. E. Brown	3	00	J. M. Harper	5	00
Wm. Purves	20	00	Mrs. M'Clure	5	00
J. M. Vanharlingen	20	00	Miss A. H.	10	00
Cash	3	00	Cash	1	00
Cash	1	00	Cash	3	00
Cash	2	00	J. M'Clure	5	00
Cash	5		Robt. Creighton	5	00
Cash	5		F. D. Sherman		00
Female Tract Society	343		Female Tract Society	13	50

Kensington Presb. ch., (Rev.		00	James W. Queen	\$1 00
Chandler's.)—Collection	\$11	38	A. Whildin	1 00
From the 5th Presbyterian chi	r.,		James W. Bennett	1 00
(Rev. Mr. Waterman's.)	۰.	0.0	Mrs. Robert O'Niell	2 00
Geo. W. M'Clelland			Robert R. Stewart	2 00
J. W. Throckmorton			Geo. L. Ashmead	2 00
Thos. Earp			From the 11th Presbyterian ci	hh.,
Wm. Worrell	20			
Joseph Montgomery	3		Church collection	25 00
Mrs. Sutherland	3	00	Gilead Sabbath-school	20 00
A Female friend			Union Missionary Society	20 00
H. M. Hieskell	1		Jacob R. Eckfeldt	10 00
Geo. Henderson	1		Henry Sherrod	10 00
W. C. Coates	7		Edward Sprague	5 00
H. Sloan			Robert Porter	5 00
Alex. Read			From the 1st Presb. chh., N.	L.,
James Atwood	10		(Dr. Carroll's.)	
Mrs. Wm. Haverstick	1		James Todd	5 00
Doct. H. Keim	2		Miss Yard	50
Richard L. Edwards	1		Miss Catharine Blake	1 00
E. Schreiner	1		Cash	3 00
E. Brown			J. Deal	2 00
G. R. Graham	9		James Hunt	5 00
Wm. A. Smith	3	00	Miss Mary Krips	5 00
Cash from several	6	82	David B. Fernon	2 00
Per Rev. T. T. Waterman	10	25	Miss S. Roland	1 00
John Neill	1	00	Miss L. A. Roland	1 00
Ervin Safford	5		Miss Hannah Little	1 00
Mrs. E. Faulkner	10	00	H. Bellejeau	1 00
From the 3d Presbyterian chur	·ch,		Andrew Fenton	2 00
(Rev. Mr. Brainerd's.)			Jacob Painter	10 00
F. A. Raybold	20	00	John Gosh	5 00
John C. Farr	5	00	Anthony Green	10 00
R. W. Davenport	10		From the Central Presb. ch.	h.,
John Allen	2	00	N. L., (Rev. Mr. Rood's.)	
Cash	1	00	Church collection	12 22
R. Coburn	5	00	Rev. Anson Rood	5 00
J. Robb	2		Mrs. Rev. C. Brown	5 00
Webb & Son	5		Wm. T. Donalson	10 00
James Castles		50	Miss A. Ayelsbury	1 00
Cash			Miss M. L. Miller	1 00
Cash	1	00	Miss M. Miller	1 00
Capt. H. Harding	1		B. D. Stewart	10 00
Samuel Powell	1		Isaac Ashmead	10 00
Cash			Geo. C. Bower	5 00
Cash	1		Jacob Donalson	5 00
E. Osbourn	1		Mrs. Joseph Leeds	5 00
E. Greble	1		From the Western Presb. chi	h.,
Mrs. E. Shaw	1		(Rev. Mr. Patton's.)	
Capt. S. Tobey			Church collection	8 00
L. Eldridge	6		Wm. E. Tenbrook	10 00
Charles Robb	5		From the 2d Presbyterian ch	h.,
F. J. Dreer	2	00	,	
Capt. Joseph Hand	4	00	Wm. Dulty	10 00

A. T. T. T. A	10 4	00.1	The way and have of sixual arts and and	
		ווטט	From members of various congre	
Legacy from late James Nas-		75	gations in the city.	\$1 00
From the 1st Dutch Ref. chh.,			Newbury Smith Miss Emily Potts	5 00
(Rev. C. C. Vanarsdale's.)			Miss Kinzey	2 00
Dr. L. P. Gebherd	10		A. H. Burtis	5 00
Jacob Sellers		1	Mrs. Sheaffer	1 00
Tract Society			H. M. Prevost	20 00
Epiphany chh., (Dr. Tyng's.)			Charles C. Aitkin	20 00
L. S. Haskell	5		A friend	50
A member of the Epiphany			Mrs. Guildin	1 37
church			Rev. J. M. Dickey	20 00
F. B. Merrick			Mrs. J. C. Harris	10 00
Gideon Burton			A Tract Visiter	50
Donation from Epiphany chh.		00	1	10 00
From Grace chh., (Rev. Mr. Sud	-		Capt. Strillines	10 00
dards'.)	•		Miss Hexham	5 00
Miss Elizabeth Stott			James C. Todd	5 00
Martin Thayer	25	00	Miss Mosier	1 00
John B. Okie			Joseph Swift	25 00
John L. Goddard	5	00	Miss Mary Booth	5 00
From St. Paul's chh., (Rev. Mr.	•		P. H. Cassady	3 00
Newton's.)	1 -	00	Mrs. McCollins	1 00
Samuel N. Davis			Mrs. Cotton	1 00
John Farr			G. R. Gemmil	2 00
Oliver Brooks	5		Dr. Samuel M'Cullock	5 00 5 00
Margaret Pepper	10	UU	Robt. A. Young	2 00
From the Central Presb. chh., (Dr. M.Dowell's.)	,		E. J. Yard	1 50
Alex. Henry	50	OΩ	A Tract Visiter Alex. Stinson	5 00
Matthew L. Bevan			Miss Eliza Smith	1 00
A. G. Miller	20	00	Rev. W. H. Bidwell	50 00
James Field	20	00	J. E. Loud	5 00
Samuel H. Perkins			Rev. S. Crawford	5 00
N. W. Atwood			Dr. W. W. Perrine	5 00
Mrs. Stackhouse			Henry Perkins	5 00
J. V. Cowell	5		A Tract Visiter	2 00
Abraham Martin	10	00	L. H. Porter	5 25
Female Tract Society	80	00	E. Howell	1 00
From the 3d Dutch Ref. chh			Cash	10.
(Dr. Bethune's.)			Wilmington, 1st Presb. churc	h 10 04
Michael Reed	10	00	" Hanover St. Pre	es-
Elisha Wells	50	00		h 58 55
Geo. H. Thompson	50	00	Darby Congregational church	
James Peters,	10	00	St. Georges and Delaware Ci	ty
R. B. Davison	5	00	Presbyterian churches	$1892\frac{1}{2}$
Henry R. Davis	25	00	West Nantmeal Presb. chh.	6 50
C. Macalester			Pitts-Grove Presb. chh.	11 67
C. R. Thomson			Pitts-Grove Tract Society	3 00
Mrs. G. Willing	_		Deerfield Presb. chh.	3 07
E. C. Wines	Ę	3 00	Bridgeton 2d Presb. chh.	20 00
			Neshamony Presb. chh.	17 00
From the 2d African Presb. ch	h.,		Elkton and Pencadar Presby	
(Rev. Mr. Harris'.)	,,		terian churches	38 00
Collection	1(	) ((	Germantown Tract Society	20 00